

(Five trillion, three hundred seventy-four billion, seven hundred seventy-seven million).

Five years ago, March 25, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,222,072,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-two billion, seventy-two million).

Ten years ago, March 25, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,480,270,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred eighty billion, two hundred seventy million).

Fifteen years ago, March 25, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,223,791,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred twenty-three billion, seven hundred ninety-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,320,546,068,114.14 (Four trillion, three hundred twenty billion, five hundred forty-six million, sixty-eight thousand, one hundred fourteen dollars and fourteen cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1178. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2589. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes.

At 5:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1757) to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States

and Russia, to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2589. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 26, 1998 he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 758. An act to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4424. A communication from the Chairman of the Long-Range Air Power Panel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of recommendations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4425. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4426. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for the fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4427. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4428. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4429. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4430. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4431. A communication from the Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4432. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4433. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4434. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4435. A communication from the Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4436. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the Wabash River project in New Harmony, Indiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4437. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to notice of funds availability and technical assistance component; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4438. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to notice of funds availability and the Core Component; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4439. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4440. A communication from the Secretary of the Security and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to use of web sites in securities transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4441. A communication from the President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to exports to Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4442. A communication from the President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to exports to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-368. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Arizona; ordered to lie on the table.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the fortieth president of the United States, was one of this nation's greatest and most beloved presidents and a true world leader; and

Whereas, through his leadership and dedication to principle, President Reagan ushered in a new era of sustained peace, prosperity, optimism and freedom for both our nation and much of the world; and

Whereas, President Reagan established fiscal policies that invigorated the American economy, stimulating growth, employment and investment while curbing federal spending, inflation and interest and tax rates; and

Whereas, when confronted by increasingly tense relations with the former Soviet Union, President Reagan implemented a policy of "peace through strength" that restored national security, ensured peace and paved the way for the successful end of the Cold War; and

Whereas, in 1986 President Reagan persuaded Congress to end the inefficiency and expense resulting from federal ownership of Washington National Airport and to transfer control to an independent state-level authority. This paved the way for long overdue airport modernization projects, including construction of the airport's new terminal; and

Whereas, legislation (H.R. 2625 and S. 1297) is pending in both houses of Congress that would redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport". Renaming the travel gateway into the nation's capital after Ronald Reagan is a fitting tribute to his legacy of leadership and prosperity.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport" in recognition of President Reagan's exceptional leadership on behalf of the citizens of this nation and all freedom-loving people throughout the world.

2. That the Congress of the United States expedite the legislation that would effect this redesignation so that the dedication can be completed before February 6, 1998. Ronald Reagan's eighty-seventh birthday.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-369. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4039

Whereas, Washington state has sought to leverage the state's purchasing power in its procurements of telecommunications and information services; obtain the lowest prices for telecommunications services for state agencies, local governments, and schools and libraries, and avoid unnecessary duplication of resources; and

Whereas, the legislature created the Department of Information Services and directed it to aggregate the demand for telecommunications services purchased from the private sector, add value, and make such services available to public entities at significantly reduced costs; and

Whereas, through such efforts the Department of Information Services has saved the taxpayers of Washington millions of dollars each year; and

Whereas, the Washington Legislature in 1996 authorized and funded the development of the K-20 Educational Telecommunications Network, a fifty-four and one-half million dollar state-wide backbone network linking K-12 school districts, educational service districts, baccalaureate institutions, public libraries, and community and technical colleges; and

Whereas, this network will provide schools and libraries with enhanced function and increased efficiencies in their use of telecommunications services; and

Whereas, the Federal Communications Commission, pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, has begun implementation of a two and one-quarter billion dollar universal service fund program to discount the cost of telecommunications and information services to schools and libraries; and

Whereas, on December 30, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission ruled that state networks, such as the K-20 educational network, may not recover directly from the fund for telecommunications services, other than Internet services and internal connections, provided and billed to schools and libraries; and

Whereas, by its order, the Commission also determined that schools and libraries served by state telecommunications networks will not be able to obtain discounts on the value added by the state to these telecommunications services procured from the private sector; and

Whereas, this ruling potentially creates incentives for Washington schools and libraries to forego the less costly state-provided services, and instead buy more expensive services directly from private providers in order to be assured of federal subsidies; and

Whereas, this ruling creates a severe administrative burden on Washington state government, and will contravene longstanding Legislative policy; and

Whereas, this ruling could increase the costs to the universal service fund since discounts will be based on higher costs negotiated one-by-one between individual schools and libraries and private telecommunications companies;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the members of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate; and members of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, Committee on Commerce, United States House of Representatives urge the Federal Communications Commission to review and amend its ruling barring direct reimbursement to state agencies that provide telecommunications services.

Be it resolved, That copies of this Memorial be transmitted immediately to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the members of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate, the members of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, Committee on Commerce, United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of Washington, and the members of the Federal Communications Commission.

POM-370. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019

Whereas, the policy of the state of Washington is to assure the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

Whereas, an adequate supply of tax-exempt private activity bond volume cap is essential and critically important in financing affordable, decent first-time home ownership opportunities and low-income and moderate-income rental housing in this state and the nation, as well as several other critically important purposes that contribute to the well-being of the citizens of the state; and

Whereas, an adequate supply of low-income housing tax credits is essential and critically important to financing affordable, decent, rental housing units that contribute to the well-being of the citizens of the state; and

Whereas, the United States Congress, in the Tax Reform Act of 1986, established restrictions on tax-exempt private activity municipal bonds, effective January 1, 1988, that imposed a limit, based on each state's population, not to exceed the greater of fifty dollars per capita per calendar year, but

failed to include an automatic inflationary multiplier to ensure that the purchasing power of this resource did not become dilute; and

Whereas, the amount of tax-exempt private activity bonding for this state is inadequate to meet the tax-exempt private activity financing demands of the state of Washington, and its agencies and political subdivisions; and

Whereas, the United States Congress, in the Tax Reform Act of 1986, established restrictions on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit that imposed a limit based on each state's population to be equal to one dollar and twenty-five cents per capita per calendar year, but failed to include an automatic inflationary multiplier to ensure that the purchasing power of this resource did not become diluted; and

Whereas, since 1987 the effects of annual inflation have diluted the purchasing power of Washington's tax-exempt private activity bonding cap and the low-income housing tax credits by forty-six percent; and

Whereas, such loss has been devastating to the ability of this state and the nation to provide adequate, affordable housing opportunities to its lower-income constituents by reducing nearly in half the number of single-family housing units and multifamily rental housing units available and affordable to the ever-increasing number of lower-income, first-time home buyers and renters in Washington, thus causing many of these families to remain in substandard or expensive housing, among other negative impacts; and

Whereas, if the state and its agencies and political subdivisions continue to be unable to provide adequate levels of tax-exempt private activity bond financing and low-income housing tax credit financing for these purposes, the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington will be further negatively impacted;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United States Congress increase immediately the tax-exempt private activity bond volume cap and the allocation of low-income housing tax credits available to each state, including Washington, to levels that would fully restore the tax-exempt private activity bond volume cap purchasing power and the lower-income housing tax credit purchasing power of each state, including Washington, to levels that would offset the diluted effects of inflation since 1987, and index increases for these resources to inflation in future years.

Be it resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-371. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 155

Whereas, current laws governing foreign-child adoptions and immigration are complex and necessary to provide certain safeguards. Included in those safeguards is the stipulation that a person entering the United States of America on a Visitor's Visa cannot be enrolled in a public school; and

Whereas, Wojtek Tokarczyk spent nearly two years as a member of the family of Walter and Teresa Tokarczyk, Michigan residents from the community of Alger. His adoptive parents, Walter and Teresa Tokarczyk, had enrolled him at Ogemaw Heights High School. Wojtek Tokarczyk was not allowed to re-enter this country following a 1997 Christmas visit to his native Poland; and

Whereas, using the seldom-used method commonly known as Private Relief Legislation, the Congress can act swiftly to allow Wojtek Tokarczyk to re-enter the United States of America, and be legally adopted by his aunt and uncle, Walter and Teresa Tokarczyk; and

Whereas, Wojtek Tokarczyk has become a boy without a country. This is not an instance where the Immigration and Naturalization Service has acted to protect the resources of this nation from an undesirable illegal alien. He is missed dearly by his family, his soccer teammates and friends, and the community at large. Wojtek is also missed by the local fire department where he served as a volunteer firefighter. This is a matter of family values and a sense of community. The prompt return of Wojtek Tokarczyk would be one small victory for the American notion that families are our most important resource and that close-knit communities still exist, now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to take immediate and necessary action to provide for United States citizenship for Wojtek Tokarczyk; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 927. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Garr M. King, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Kermit Lipez, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Robert T. Dawson, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Johnnie B. Rawlinson, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Gregory Moneta Sleet, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1864. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude clinical social worker services from coverage under the medicare skilled nursing facility prospective

payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1865. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to provide safeguards against the abuse of information reported to the National Directory of New Hires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1866. A bill to provide assistance to improve research regarding the quality and effectiveness of health care for children, to improve data collection regarding children's health, and to improve the effectiveness of health care delivery systems for children; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 1867. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1868. A bill to express United States foreign policy with respect to, and to strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of, individuals persecuted for their faith worldwide; to authorize United States actions in response to religious persecution worldwide; to establish an Ambassador at Large on International Religious Freedom within the Department of State, a Commission on International Religious Persecution, and a Special Adviser on International Religious Freedom within the National Security Council; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1869. A bill to authorize the establishment of a disaster mitigation pilot program in the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1870. A bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 1871. A bill to provide that the exception for certain real estate investment trusts from the treatment of stapled entities shall apply only to existing property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NICKLES:

S. 1872. A bill to prohibit new welfare for politicians; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. INOUE:

S. Res. 200. A resolution designating March 26, 1998, as "National Maritime Arbitration Day"; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1864. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude clinical social worker services from coverage under the Medicare skilled

nursing facility prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

THE MEDICARE SOCIAL WORK EQUITY ACT OF 1998

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998". I am proud to sponsor this legislation which will amend section 4432 in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 which prevents social workers from directly billing Medicare for mental health services provided in skilled nursing facilities. I am honored to be joined by my good friends Senator MURRAY and Senator WYDEN who care equally about correcting this inequity for social workers.

Last year's Balanced Budget Act changed the payment method for skilled nursing facility care. Under current law, reimbursement is made after services have been delivered for the reasonable costs incurred. However, this "cost-based system" was blamed for inordinate growth in Medicare spending at skilled nursing facilities.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 phases in a prospective payment system for skilled nursing facilities beginning July 1, 1998. Payments for Part B services for skilled nursing facility residents will be consolidated. This means that the provider of the services must bill the facility instead of directly billing Medicare.

Congress was careful to not include psychologists and psychiatrists in this new consolidated billing provision. Social workers were included, I think by mistake. Clinical social workers are the primary providers of mental health services to residents of nursing homes, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas. Clinical social workers are also the most cost effective mental health providers.

This legislation is important for three reasons: First, I am concerned that section 4432 will inadvertently reduce mental health services to nursing home residents. Second, I believe that the new consolidated billing requirement will result in a shift from using social workers to other mental health professionals who are reimbursed at a higher cost. This will result in higher costs to Medicare. Finally, I am concerned that clinical social workers will lose their jobs in nursing homes or will be inadequately reimbursed.

I like this bill because it will correct an inequity for America's social workers, it will assure quality of care for nursing home residents, and will assure cost efficiency for Medicare. I look forward to the Senate's support of this worthy legislation.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1865. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to provide safeguards against the abuse of information reported to the National Directory of New Hires; to the Committee on Finance.